

KEEPING THE DOLPHIN ROWING TRADITION ALIVE ~ A COMPILATION
OF LOGS FROM THIS YEAR'S SACRAMENTO ROW or : DANTE'S INFERNO

by Kenneth Frank, Rowing Commissioner

*Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita
Mi ritrovai per una selva oscura,
Ché la diritta cia era smarrita.
Ah quanto a dir qual era è cosa dura
Esta selva selvaggia e aspra e forte,
Che nel pensier rinnova la paura!
Tant' è amara che poco è pin morte;
Ma per trattar del ben ch' io vi trovai,
Diro de l' altre cose ch' io v' ho scorte.*

Crew:

CRONIN Capt. Phil Reiff, Gabe Scurlock, Steve Worthington, Eric Hansen
HUGHES Capt. Rob Downs, Peter Molnar, Judy Stalker, and the author
FARRELL Capt. Paul Gisler, Kristin Nakazawa, Barnaby Payne, John Kortum
VIKING Capt. Deborah Henning, Linda Righetti, Dave Sugar, Nick Payne
SPECTRE Capt. Jon Belinsky, Padric Doyle

Saturday, 24 June 95

0430 Last minute prep for departure. Ken issues commemorative bandanna charts so we don't get lost. Where's Rob? Group photo by Bob David

0552 Underway! Gabe is rumored to have had 3 beers already. Flat & calm with touch of breeze in Cove. Past the breakwater, it's light to moderate chop.
0600 The yellow orange glows brighter as we reach 'The Rock.' Silhouette of Berkeley hills and fading pink sky.

0605 Wind 10kt. with increasing swells.

0616 Passing Harding Rock and Stanley's tree. Flood felt here.

0631 Dave & Linda kick ass -- we're leading the armada - almost to Sam's

0638 Ken spotted sporting a banana hammock. Naked rower.

0650 Rob, Laura and Jayni anticipate our Tiburon arrival.

1st vessel, the HUGHES pulls into Sam's.

0709 Underway after muffins, coffee, tea and juice are provisioned by Jayni.

0717 Richmond San Rafael bridge in sight -- great flood.

0800 John K fussing for a beer. Abeam Red "8" headed toward

Southhampton Shoal channel with 6 kt flood. Mile 7. It's already hot!

0837 Passing Red Rock and it is already hot! This boat is going to be like a hibachi when we get upriver!

0925 Hot.

0940 It's already pretty toasty. Sugar demands longer strokes on Lake San Pablo - hot hot hot.

1007 Point Pinole Mile 14 grease oarlocks for the 1st time. Overcome with fervor to press on with full steady pulls and heartfelt thanks on rapid fire position changes by JB himself.

1015 Shift change. San Pablo (Bay) is like one vast peaceful lake -- couldn't ask for a better day or a better crew.

1039 Burrito madness and love incantations. Judy's hand in marriage is proposed by single-minded men . "Pulling to Reno?", says JB

1045 Sailboats motoring - Where the hell is Benicia? (Mile 26)

1120 Davis Point Mile 20. Passed the SS COAST RANGE at dock.

1204 Benicia City Wharf ruins in sight as FARRELL flies by!

1226 Benicia. Payne Bros. try to cool off by jumping in only to find the water uncomfortably tepid. Grease oarlocks and seats in desert like heat.

1300 Underway. Water unseasonably calm, flat and hot. Much discussion of cooler climes. PDX to be exact. Beers are setting in as we stroke in unison.

1335 Under the cool shade briefly of each of the Martinez bridges.

1351 Challenge by Eric nonchalantly viewing charts. CRONIN pulls ahead.

1400 Green buoy "7" at north end of Bulls Head Channel Mile 28.5.

1445 Corona opened.

1451 Sierra Nevada opened.

1453 Sierra Nevada gone.

1454 Still hot.

1455 Rowing smartly.

1532 Red buoy "24". Mile 34. Entrance to Honker Bay. Don't worry. It won't hurt. It's natural. Naturale e non famale.

1544 It's really hot now. Convergence of the fleet with the SS CABO S. LUCAS underway, with hawser to tug under full power pulling hard astern! What's going on? The ship calls Vessel Traffic with, "Five rowboats with low freeboard spotted in the channel....better give other vessels a 'slow bell'".

1549 HUGHES is left in the wake of all. Michael Jackson is alive and Elvis is a spinner.

Blue flames belch from some stark tall stacks. This is truly Hades.

Pulling water across the Bay
While roasting in the sun.
A group of four, in a wooden boat,
Travel to a world far-away from their home.

1727 Entering mouth of River pulling ahead of huge brown hills. Mile 42.

1750 Fig Newtons and beer -- that's the ticket to power stroking.

1830 Temperature is down. Gentle and soothing breeze. Spirits are high as Marker 11 and Mile 44 slide out of view.

1900 Impunity couples with brute force. We raise the L.L. Bean gortex spinnaker harnessing natures power. Pacing SPECTRE crew speed demons

2000 Mile 52.5. Rio Vista greets us with Silva's Catering and nearly 100 pieces of chicken, tortalini, fritatta as good as Cecco's and a magnum of

Ken's home made Cabernet. What enthusiastic service by Deborah's family!
2100 Steve and the Payne Bros. take pulls on Jack Daniels rather than oars
in the shadow of stuffed endangered species at Foster Big HornSaloon.

Sunday 25 June 95

0315 Chattering locals awaken us from a row induced stupor.
0800 Huge Fishermans breakfast at The Stripper.
0942 Underway to Courtland. 90° ! CRONIN (Team Zest) off and running.
VIKING and CRONIN slapping oars. Crews are refreshed, fed and now in
the groove. How long will this last is the question. Pulling Power will be the
challenge to the heat and psyche.
1020 Linda and Dave race the car ferry.
1027 HUGHS aground as a scientific test of depth at marker 37. Oar blade
samplings will be sent to Corps of Engineers.
1125 Did a "Power 10" for JB; waited 'till he motored away and popped
beer #1 of the day -- pacing is of the essence.
1137 Riding the wild surf with Judy in powerboats' wake. Mt. Diablo
following on port quarter with C-5's touch and go, banking left.
1140 Red Day Marker 50, Miner Slough entrance. HUGHES spends fleets
time by constructing awnings for invaluable shade then foments resentment
from other crews while provocatively being towed by SPECTRE.
1330 Mile 61 Pistol packin' Jack wields a welcome to the Dolphin Club.
VIKING /Venetian Gondoliers and FARRELL under full steam now, have
transformed into Team Hades and Apocalypse Now. Don't blow a gasket!
Eric's thermometer pegs out at 115°F!!! Ken's shoe melts and separates from
the sole. Jack bangs on the outhouse door. Paul's pen has bonded shut to the
cap. SPECTRE's motor calls it quits. Steve try's to be cool with the hose.
1522 Mile 65. Tension peaks in Sutter Slough. Homicide possible.
VIKING, and FARRELL, stop for a prescribed swim and cooling off break.
The HUGHES follows the CRONIN's beer can impaled bow ornament.
Somehow Ken's underwear shows up there too.
1745 Arrive Courtland to Delilah's. Heat and fatigue have adversely
affected reasoning. Beer and Crawdads, Cigars and Cigarettes; these are the
key elements to a successful row.
2050 With SPECTRE's motor down and left to rest at Courtland, Jon
espouses, "The Time Has Come For Blood and Iron..."briefing. We are to row
in formation for safety. Underway as the orange red sunset sky changes to
darkness we are on the last 10 nm of the day. Calm weather, warm summer
night on the now silvery reflective river. This is the time to relish the cool
night air. For a time we row silently together in unison. Suddenly the
CRONIN pulls away from the pack. Every boat is jockeying for the best
water close to shore. She is boarded and brought back into line. JB has
thoughts of tying all boats together!

Monday 26 June 95

0100 Darkness and delirium set in. Steve can't complete simple sentences due to exposure and excessive alcohol consumption. Testarosa deploys secret flash fazer. Padric and Deborah together again in the VIKING reminds one of shades of mutiny in Honker Bay.

0200 Many changes later we arrive Freeport. Crash.

0752 Underway Sacramento. Hard current - 10 nm to go - three cheers for muleskin! Conducted emergency stop hold water drills. The crews performed splendidly.

0914 Analysis of the tide and current reveals a +4 suck. CRONIN/Team Zest passes HUGHES/Zen Mama with Jon B. pulling easy with a smile, (although he's truly possessed) while Steve, giving it his all looks ready to explode.

1140 What's the sound of: dogs barking, birds chirping, water trickling and minds snapping? The CRONIN, first in, powered past the VIKING in the last 100 yd. A shout of "Ya gotta wait for a 40 year old woman to pass eh?", is heard. Looking surprised, the FARRELL arrives.

1240 Last vessel, the HUGHES, glides safely to Miller Park, Sacramento.

Year of Row	I Street *	Cubic Feet per Second Level in ft. (in 1000's)	Number of Rowers [Women]	Number of Hours Rowed	Night Hours Rowed
'92	3.5	5 - 10**	3	23	1.5
'93	5.5	15	11 [2]	39	(VIKING 2)+3
'94	3	<10**	11	24	0
'95	12.5	34 to 40	18 [4]	36	5

* I Street in Sacramento is located after the confluence of both the American and Sacramento Rivers which the Calif.. Dept. of Water Resources measures above sea level. Thanks go to James Bailey, State Hydrologist for statistics.

**These are estimates. River was below sensor level due to drought.

Questions for next years sign-up:

- What 's been the most physically enduring and mentally challenging experience in your life? (This may be it).
- Can you pee in a bailer?
- Can you live on an 18' boat with three other stinky sweaty, sun deranged people for thirty six hours of rowing?

When you tell friends you're rowing to Sac. and they ask why -- take a moment and ponder the question.

NB Translation of DANTE'S Inferno from the 1477 a.d. Italian CANTO I, can be found on the Rowing podium.